

CLAIMS

1. A liquid crystal display of OCB mode which comprises a backlight unit, a backlight-side polarizing plate, a liquid crystal cell of OCB mode and a viewer-side polarizing plate in order, wherein the viewer-side polarizing plate comprises an optically anisotropic layer formed from liquid crystal compound, a first transparent protective film, a polarizing membrane, a second transparent protective film and a light-diffusing layer in order, said viewer-side polarizing plate being so placed that the optically anisotropic layer formed from liquid crystal compound is arranged on a side of the liquid crystal cell, wherein the first transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film having a R_e retardation value of 20 to 70 nm and a R_{th} retardation value of 100 to 500 nm, and wherein the light-diffusing layer comprises transparent resin and transparent fine particles dispersed therein, said transparent resin and said transparent fine particles having refractive indices that are different from each other.

2. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the first transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film having a thickness of 10 to 70 μm , and comprising cellulose acetate having an acetic acid content of 59.0 to 61.5%.

3. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the first transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film comprising 100 weight parts of cellulose acetate and 0.01 to 20 weight parts of an aromatic compound having at least two aromatic rings.

4. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the second transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film having a thickness of 10 to 70 μm , and comprising cellulose acetate having an acetic acid content
5 of 59.0 to 61.5%.

5. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the second transparent protective film has, on a side of the light-diffusing layer, a surface on which average surface roughness measured at a cut-off value of 0.8 mm
10 per 100 mm length is 0.2 μm or less.

6. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal compound is a discotic liquid
15 crystal compound.

7. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the difference between the refractive index of the transparent resin and the refractive index of the
20 transparent fine particles is in the range of 0.02 to 0.15.

8. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the transparent fine particles have a size distribution having at least two peaks, one of which is in the
25 range of 0.5 to 2.0 μm and another of which is in the range of 2.0 to 5.0 μm .

9. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the light-diffusing layer has a haze of 40% or
30 more.

10. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein a low-refractive index layer having a refractive index of 1.35 to 1.45 is provided on the light-diffusing layer.

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11. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal cell of OCB mode has a color filter, and a distance between the color filter and the light-diffusing layer of the viewer-side polarizing plate is 0.6 mm or less.

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12. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal cell of OCB mode comprises a backlight-side substrate, a liquid crystal layer and a viewer-side substrate in order, wherein a color filter is placed between the liquid crystal layer and the viewer-side substrate, and wherein a total thickness of the viewer-side substrate, the optically anisotropic layer of the viewer-side polarizing plate, the first transparent protective film of the viewer-side polarizing plate, the polarizing membrane of the viewer-side polarizing plate and the second transparent protective film of the viewer-side polarizing plate is 0.6 mm or less.

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13. A liquid crystal display of VA mode which comprises a backlight unit, a backlight-side polarizing plate, a liquid crystal cell of VA mode, and a viewer-side polarizing plate in order, wherein the viewer-side polarizing plate comprises a first transparent protective film, a polarizing membrane, a second transparent protective film and a light-diffusing layer in order, said viewer-side polarizing plate being so placed that the first transparent protective film is arranged on a side of the liquid crystal cell, wherein the first transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film having a Re retardation value of 20 to 70 nm and a Rth retardation value of 100 to 500 nm, and wherein the light-diffusing layer comprises transparent resin and transparent fine particles dispersed therein, said transparent resin and said transparent fine particles having refractive indices that are different from each other.

14. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the first transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film having a thickness of 10 to 70 μm , and comprising cellulose acetate having an acetic acid content of 59.0 to 61.5%.

15. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the first transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film comprising 100 weight parts of cellulose acetate and 0.01 to 20 weight parts of an aromatic compound having at least two aromatic rings.

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16. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the second transparent protective film is a cellulose acetate film having a thickness of 20 to 70 μm , and comprising cellulose acetate having an acetic acid content of 59.0 to 61.5%.

17. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the second transparent protective film has, on a side of the light-diffusing layer, a surface on which average surface roughness measured at a cut-off value of 0.8 mm per 100 mm length is 0.2 μm or less.

18. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the difference of between the refractive index of the transparent resin and the refractive index of the transparent fine particles is in the range of 0.02 to 0.15.

19. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the transparent fine particles have a size distribution having at least two peaks, one of which is in the range of 0.5 to 2.0 μm and another of which is in the range of 2.0 to 5.0 μm .

20. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the light-diffusing layer has a haze of 40% or more.

21. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein a low-refractive index layer having a refractive index of 1.35 to 1.45 is provided on the light-diffusing layer.

22. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the liquid crystal cell of VA mode has a color filter, and a distance between the color filter and the light-diffusing layer of the viewer-side polarizing plate is 0.6 mm or less.

23. The liquid crystal display as defined in claim 13, wherein the liquid crystal cell of VA mode comprises a backlight-side substrate, a liquid crystal layer and a viewer-side substrate in order, wherein a color filter is placed between the liquid crystal layer and the viewer-side substrate, and wherein a total thickness of the viewer-side substrate of the liquid crystal cell, the first transparent protective film of the viewer-side polarizing plate, the polarizing membrane of the viewer-side polarizing plate and the second transparent protective film of the viewer-side polarizing plate is 0.6 mm or less.